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January 12, 2000

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

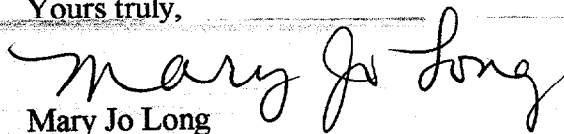
Re: labeling irradiated food

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am opposed to irradiation of food as a way of trying to insure food safety. It is being promoted by food producers/processors who don't used sanitary methods of raising and butchering meat. It is also used to extend shelf life to the detriment of nutrition and flavor. It is not the way to solve these new food borne illnesses. They are a product of industrialized food production. I support local and small scale agriculture rather than corporate agriculture. You, as co-chair of the President's Council on Food Safety, can promote our power to choose freely how and what to eat by insisting on clear and prominent labeling of processes/additives to which so many citizens object.

For my family's well being and right to choose, I urge you to stand up to those economic interests who would curtail our right to know.

Yours truly,


Mary Jo Long

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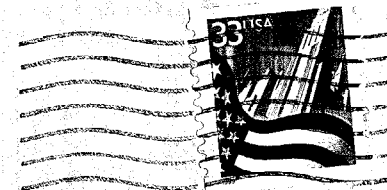
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